

JUNE 10, 2010 LSPA MEETING MINUTES

The meeting came to order at 8:45am in the cafeteria.

2010-11 VOTES

The LSPA approved the 2010-2011 Officers' Slate as proposed.

The 2010-11 budget was also presented. Two changes had been made since its initial presentation at the May 13th meeting: 1) the Direct Appeal goal was changed to be more in line with the 2009-10 actual contribution level, and 2) the Field Day budget was increased to \$300. The budget shows an overall loss of \$440, but previous years' surplus will cover the deficit. The budget was approved as proposed.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL COMMITTEE - SARAH GIROTTI

Sarah provided a follow-up report on several items that Bill McAlduff presented to the LSPA at the May 13th meeting. First, the school district 2010-11 budget of \$34.5mm was approved at Town Meeting. The Technology Warrant Article was also approved, which provides additional budget of ~\$100k to provide technology-related infrastructure and presentation software. This is year 1 of a 3-year "ask" to improve technology capabilities in the schools. Years 2 and 3, each of which is approximately \$100k, must be approved annually for the school year in which the budget will be spent.

On Tuesday night, Design "E" was approved for the Vinson-Owen school redesign; the plan can be viewed on the school district's website. The design will ultimately provide space for 420 students, up from 280 today. Upon its completion, slated for 2013, there will also be a re-districting to ease over-crowding at Lincoln, Muraco, and Ambrose and to fill open space at Lynch and V-O, but the specific plan has yet to be determined.

While reviewing the V-O site, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) also toured the High School and approved the start of the feasibility study phase for that site. In response to several questions and comments, Sarah stated that the leaning is to renovate versus rebuild, as there is ample room in the existing footprint. This determination, however, as well as solving the issues of flooding and swing space, will be addressed as part of the feasibility study.

While great news, it does complicate the override process. For the V-O project, the final sign-off from the state will be no later than November 30, 2010. After that, the town has 120 days to show how we will pay for the renovation – most likely, an override vote in the spring of 2011. Then, a 2nd override will most likely be proposed for the High School in mid-2012. Anyone interested in joining a resident override committee to help "sell" the need should speak with Sarah after the meeting.

Finally, Sarah reminded that LSPA members that the School Committee meets every other Tuesday night at the Lynch library, and they are looking for additional school liaisons to attend.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Susan Fagerstrom gave the Treasurer's report for the period ending May 31. Although we are showing positive income, Susan is still awaiting all expenses to come in and still expects a slight deficit.

Susan reminded the LSPA that any member who has receipts to submit or checks to cash should take action soon – she will close the books on June 30th.

The May report was approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The May minutes were reviewed. No changes were made and the minutes were approved as is.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

With the school budget approved, Kate Scanlon said the focus has now shifted to execution. For Lincoln, the budget estimates an additional 10 students next year (to ~462). We therefore have some minimal hiring to do (a second building aide, a speech services teacher, and a special education teacher), the process for which has just begun.

Kate also discussed the continued concerns of behavior in the cafeteria and the challenges of distributing the staff between the lunchroom and the playground. It was suggested that the topic be brought to the School Council to brainstorm possible solutions.

Laura Bailey from the School Council spoke about a few topics, the first being school safety. There is a strong focus on outside safety. An extra crossing guard has been approved at McCall, and this person will transition to the Lincoln school release. Laura also shared the results of the satisfaction survey recently conducted. There was a 30% participation level. The feedback was congruent with the school's focus: keep kids engaged, technology, playground "fairness" and behavior, and the MCAS. Finally, Laura stated that the School Council plans to post meeting summaries one time per month in the LincLetter. In the fall, two new reps will be elected, but Laura encouraged everyone to get involved.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE – CHRIS FURLONG & SARAH GIROTTI

Chris Furlong outlined some short-term and longer term ideas that have come from meetings with parents, Kate and Jay Gill. Some of the short-term items are to hot-top part of the space for basketball, 4-square and hopscotch; embed a tether ball for younger students; and sod the remaining 2/3 of the space.

Medium-term ideas were to create a 75x40 "turf" area similar to McCall. Longer-term, Chris mentioned several ideas that involve building play structures around the perimeters, like a monkey bar "track" with different activities. He referred to a website that promotes "small spaces for kids to gather" -

www.naturalplaythings.com

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Bridget Stump highlighted the past year and what the LSPA has accomplished. While Bridget expressed overall pride in what the LSPA was able to support, in particular she highlighted the \$7300 spent for back-to-school grants (divided among all the classrooms for discretionary enrichment) and the faculty training we support – almost 100% of our teachers are trained in Open Circle, which is far ahead of most other schools.

Donna Toelke, Co-chair of the Enrichment committee, shared that, in addition to the \$8000 budgeted for events, individual contributions from parents (costs for buses, those “little checks”) amounted to an additional \$6000 that was spent on some truly amazing and enriching activities for all grades at Lincoln. An extensive list was distributed at the meeting.

Linda McDonough shared a Mini-Grant Proposal to be approved by the LSPA. As background, the LSPA’s goal is to spend our funds as close to the year in which they were given, so parents’ gifts go to benefit their children while at Lincoln. Given a number of exceptional years, the LSPA is in the fortunate position of carrying a large surplus. The LSPA board therefore proposes that \$2500 (or \$1250 per period) be set aside for grants to teachers who submit a proposal. There will be October and February deadlines for teachers to submit proposals. Amounts less than \$500 can be approved by the LSPA Grant Committee; amounts greater than \$500 must be approved by the LSPA. Additionally, the proposal asks for a reserve of \$7500 for capital projects, such as work on the playground. The LSPA body approved the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Shepard.